

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OIC-02 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2617

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR SENSER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH ILO

SUBJECT: LABOR AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES TO 63RD ILC
NAMED

1. SUWIT YINGWOROPHAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL , DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, HAS APPOINTED THANONG LAOWANIT, PRESIDENT OF THE BOONRAWD BREWERY LABOR UNION, AS THAI LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. (IN PAST TWO YEARS THAI LABOR REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ELECTED BY PEERS). ACCORDING TO BANGKOK POST REPORT, SUWIT JUSTIFIED ACTION ON GROUNDS THAT QUOTE THANONG HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNMENT-LABOR RELATION. UNQUOTE TO GIVE AURA OF LEGITIMACY TO SELECTION PRECEDURE, PRIME MINISTER THANINKRAIWICHIAN RECEIVED THANONG AND FOUR OTHER LABOR LEADERS ON MAY 24 FOR DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR WORKERS.

2. IN REACTION TO RTG'S APPOINTMENT OF THAI LABOR REPRESENTATIVE IN LIEU OF ELECTION, PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, PRESIDENT OF THE
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METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC AUTHORITY LABOR UNION AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE DISBANDED (BY THE RTG) LABOR COUNCIL OF THAILAND AND SUNTHON KAEONET, PRESIDENT OF EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION, HAVE ORGANIZED PROTEST EFFORT. ON MAY 23 THEY LED GROUP OF 30 UNION LEADERS TO SEE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR KANUNG LUCHAI TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE. RECEIVING NO SATISFACTION FROM KANUNG, GROUP ON MAY 24 SENT

PROTEST NOTE TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAMAK SUNTHORAWET,
BRANDING APPOINTMENT OF VIOLATION OF ILO CHARTER.

3. ON MAY 26 PHAISAN RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE RTG'S FINAL REJECTION OF LABOR LEADERS' PROTEST NOTE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PHAISAN HAS NOW FORWARDED COPIES OF PORTEST NOTE TO ILO, ICFTU, AFL-CIO AND OTHER INTERESTED LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INTENDS TO CIRCULATE COPIES OF NOTE TO ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS PRESENTLY MEETING IN PATTAYA.

4. EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THAILAND ADVISES THAT WANCHAI BULKUN WILL BE THAI EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE TO 63RD ILC.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH RTG DECISION TO APPOINT ILO LABOR REPRESENTATIVE IS CONSISTENT WITH RTG POLICY OF MAINTAINING TIGHT CONTROLS ON ORGANIZED LABOR, LABOR LEADERS' PUBLIC CRITICISM

OF RTG AND RAPID APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT REPRESENT SHIFT IN RESPONSE BY LABOR. THIS ISSUE SEEMS WELL-SUITED FOR OPEN EXPRESSION OF CRITICISM BECAUSE IT DOES NOT IMPINGE ON OTHER DOMESTICALLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES AND LABOR LEADERS KNOW THEY HAVE STRONG CASE ON ITS MERITS. AS FOR THANONG, PHAISAN, SUNTHON AND MAJORITY OF THAI LABOR LEADERS VIEW HIM AS QUOTE LACKEY UNQUOTE OF RTG.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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